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REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the present application.

Applicants, again, acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 5-8 and 13-16 contain allowable subject matter. In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that their respective base claims are in allowable form. Applicants, accordingly, request that the Examiner allow these claims.

Claims 1-4 and 9-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,542,581 to Suonsivu et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,292,515 to Kao et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,356,585 to Ko et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Examiner continued to rely upon Suonsivu et al. and Kao et al. as references that allegedly disclose dynamically adapting connection parameters according to detected signal-to-noise ("S/N") ratio. The Examiner relied upon Fig. 5 and its corresponding description in previously cited Ko et al. as alleged disclosure of "fast retraining that uses current transmission characteristics." The cited portions of Ko et al. describe a scheme where a DSL modem is switched from a normal communication "data mode" to an increase amplitude or decrease amplitude mode when the detected S/N ratio is above or below a certain threshold range. The modem is maintained in one of these modes until the signal-to-noise ratio returns to within the threshold, whereupon the modem is returned to the data mode with normal amplitude. In other words, the cited portions of Ko et al. merely describe a technique for optimizing signal amplitudes according to S/N ratios—increasing amplitude as soon as S/N signals are above a threshold and decreasing amplitude as soon as S/N signals are below the threshold. Such portions, therefore, do not disclose or suggest a disconnection after S/N ratios have been out of

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range for a duration longer than a reference time, or any reconnection thereafter. Please see, e.g., col. 8, lines 58-65 of Ko et al.

As such, the cited portions of Suonsivu et al., Kao et al., and Ko et al. are all merely directed to adaptive connection adjustments without disconnection. Thus, even assuming, arguendo, that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to combine these references, the combination would still have failed to disclose or suggest the claimed feature of

“causing a DSL interface containing unit to interrupt said intercommunication once and to thereafter reconnect said user and said center, when said signal-to-noise ratio is judged not to be within said predetermined range for a duration longer than a reference time,” as recited in claim 1. (Emphasis added)

And therefore, such a combination would further have failed to disclose or suggest the claimed feature of a DSL containing unit, in the reconnecting process, performing a handshake and an initialization so as to establish a negotiation for performing intercommunication with a DSL interface containing unit on the other side of a telephone line.

In other words, the combination of Suonsivu et al., Kao et al., and Ko et al. proposed by the Examiner, even if obvious, would have failed to disclose or suggest,

“[a] DSL communication method for interconnecting a user and a center by using a 2-wire telephone line and a DSL communications technology so that said user and said center perform an intercommunication, the method comprising the steps of:

monitoring a signal-to-noise ratio of an accepted DSL;
judging whether or not said signal-to-noise ratio is within a predetermined range; and

causing a DSL interface containing unit to interrupt said intercommunication once and to thereafter reconnect said user and said center, when said signal-to-noise ratio is judged not to be within said predetermined range for a duration longer than a reference time, wherein in the reconnecting process said DSL

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interface containing unit performs a handshake and an initialization so as to establish a negotiation for performing intercommunication with a DSL interface containing unit on the other side of the 2-wire telephone line," as recited in claim 1. (Emphasis added)

Advantageously, the claimed invention provides for a disconnection-reconnection technique that does not require the adaptation routines described in the cited references, thus simplifying the equipment needed.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, together with claims 2-4 dependent therefrom, is patentable over the Suonsivu et al., Kao et al., and Ko et al., separately and in combination, for at least the above-stated reasons. Claim 9 includes features that correspond to those of claim 1 cited above and is, therefore, together with claims 10-12 dependent therefrom, patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons.

Again, U.S. Patent No. 6,628,754 to Murphy et al., cited by the Examiner in the March 17, 2005 Office Action, merely describes a "fast retrain" technique using stored characteristics, and therefore, does not disclose or suggest reconnecting with a handshake and an initialization. Correspondingly, such a technique is not suitable for a reconnection after a disconnection that is after a signal-to-noise ratio is judged not to be within said predetermined range for a duration longer than a reference time because the stored characteristics may, by then, be obsolete. Therefore, the further combination of Murphy et al. would still have failed to cure the above-described deficiencies of Suonsivu et al., Kao et al., and Ko et al., even assuming, arguendo, that such a further combination would have been obvious to one skilled in the art.

The above statements on the disclosure in the cited reference represent the present opinions of the undersigned attorney. The Examiner is respectfully requested to specifically

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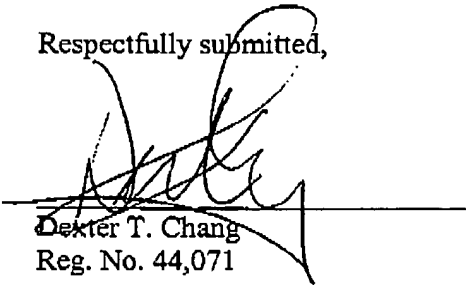
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indicate those portions of the reference that provide the basis for a view contrary to any of the above-stated opinions.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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